



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 5 2020

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I am transmitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the September 2019 U.S. Government Accountability Office report entitled, *Environmental Justice: Federal Efforts Need Better Planning, Coordination, and Methods to Assess Progress* (GAO-19-543). The EPA prepared this response pursuant to 31 United States Code 720.

GAO Recommendation (Recommendations 21-23)

The Administrator of EPA, as chair of the working group, should develop guidance for agencies on what they should include in their environmental justice strategic plans. (Recommendation 21)

The Administrator of EPA, as chair of the working group, should develop or create a committee of the working group to develop guidance on methods the agencies could use to assess progress toward their environmental justice goals. (Recommendation 22)

The Administrator of EPA, as chair of the working group, and in consultation with the working group, should clearly establish, in its organizational documents, strategic goals for the federal government's efforts to carry out the 1994 Executive Order. (Recommendation 23)

EPA Response

The EPA agrees with the GAO's recommendations 21-23. The EPA and its partner agencies in the Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group have already determined that the Strategy and Implementation Progress Report Committee will lead the efforts to implement these recommendations.

GAO Recommendation (Recommendation 24)

The Administrator of EPA, as chair of the working group, and in consultation with the other working group members, should update the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding and renew the agencies' commitments to participate in the interagency collaborative effort and the working group. (Recommendation 24)

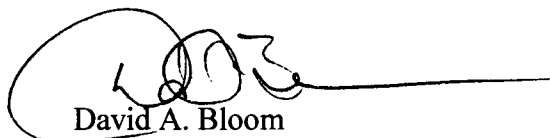
EPA Response

The EPA disagrees with the GAO's recommendation 24. The 2011 Memorandum of Understanding is still in effect. The EJ IWG will focus on updating the Framework for Collaboration, revising strategic plans, and implementation of activities to achieve the goals of those plans. The EPA believes that an enhanced strategic framework for use by member agencies as well as a consistent method for setting and measuring attainment of goals will greatly enhance the ability of federal agencies to demonstrate their commitment to and progress towards achieving environmental justice in their activities.

The EJ IWG will, however, revisit consideration of updating the MOU after the strategic framework has been finalized and EJ IWG member agencies have implemented their updated strategic plans. All future decisions regarding any potential update to the MOU will be made by the EJ IWG as a whole.

The agency appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the final GAO report. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina Moody, in the agency's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, by email at moody.christina@epa.gov or by phone at (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by 'A. Bloom' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David A. Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 5 2020

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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David A. Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 5 2020

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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David A. Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 5 2020

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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David A. Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 5 2020

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Russell Vought
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Vought:

I am transmitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the September 2019 U.S. Government Accountability Office report entitled, *Environmental Justice: Federal Efforts Need Better Planning, Coordination, and Methods to Assess Progress* (GAO-19-543). The EPA prepared this response pursuant to 31 United States Code 720.

The agency reviewed the report and pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 720, enclosed are copies of the EPA responses to the Chairs of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

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David A. Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Enclosures



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 5 2020

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Eugene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

I am transmitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the September 2019 U.S. Government Accountability Office report entitled, *Environmental Justice: Federal Efforts Need Better Planning, Coordination, and Methods to Assess Progress* (GAO-19-543). The EPA prepared this response pursuant to 31 United States Code 720.

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